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REVIEWS

The History of North America. Vol. XVII: *The Rise of the New South.* By PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE. Philadelphia. [N. D.]: Printed for subscribers only by George Barrie and Sons. Pp. xxi+491.

This volume, which covers a period of twenty-five years, contains hardly a word of political history. Mr. Bruce has undertaken to describe the economic and social conditions of the South at the close of "reconstruction" and to follow their development down to 1901. The author is no novice at this kind of writing and he has performed the present task *con amore*. The greater part of the book is devoted to agriculture, manufacturing, and education, in all of which the South has made great strides. It is an interesting story, well told for the most part, but the progress made since 1901 has been so remarkable that much of it now reads like ancient history.

The chief fault of the book—it is hardly worth while to comment on such slips as the statement of the opening sentence that the last soldier stationed in the South to overawe the inhabitants was withdrawn in 1876—lies in its narrow range of vision. Though one of a series which purports to give a history of North America, it gives the impression of a very remarkable growth in one section without so much as a hint at what was taking place elsewhere. By comparing ourselves with ourselves it is very easy to congratulate ourselves on our wonderful advancement. The mistake of the author in following this plan, or of the editor or publisher in requiring him to follow it, is one common to most historians of this period. They have assumed that "reconstruction" was a thing peculiar to the South, practically ignoring the transformation which the war and its aftermath wrought in the North at the same time. The fault of the volume under review may be remedied in part by adding another to the series describing in a similar way the development of the rest of the country and making the necessary comparisons, but it does not appear that there is to be any such addition.

Only a few comparisons are necessary to show the unsatisfactory character of Mr. Bruce's book as a part of the history of our

common country, however excellent an account it may give of a particular section. The South has had a wonderful development, but so has the rest of the country. From 1850 to 1900 New York increased the value of her manufactures 810 per cent., while Virginia increased hers only 350 per cent. North Carolina, however, outstripped Massachusetts in the rate of increase by 940 to 570. Even in the value of farms New York outclassed Virginia, the increase being 90 and 45 per cent. respectively. Taking the South as a whole, it appears that her increase in agricultural products was only 257 per cent., while that of the North was 309. In railroad building alone was her percentage of increase greater than that of the North. Yet her superficial area is greater by 238,851 square miles. It may be added here that by "North" and "South" is meant the two sections as they were in 1850.

Since 1900, however, the South has excelled in several industries and it may be that we are now on the eve of an era in which she shall really distance her rival. The agricultural laborer in the South produces less per capita than his competitor in the North, but he gets a return of 27 per cent. on a capital of \$870, while his competitor gets only 18 per cent. on \$3,527. Even in manufactures the southern laborer has a slight advantage in his returns, but nothing like so great as in agriculture. Now everybody knows that the least intelligent part of the population in the South is engaged in farming. Given an equal amount of intelligence, and capital equal to that of his northern brother, what will not the southern farmer accomplish?

Such comparisons are wanting in Mr. Bruce's book. The chapter on "Political Conditions" is very good, but it hardly goes far enough in the "economic interpretation" of southern history.

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Women's Work and Wages. By EDWARD CADBURY, M. CECILE MATHESON, GEORGE SHANN. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1907. Pp. 368.

The University of Chicago Press has done well to issue an American edition of this study into a "phase of life in an industrial city," the city of Birmingham, England. In the absence of accurate information so painfully felt as to the employment of women in our own communities, a well-planned and well-executed study as to their employment in another great commercial and industrial center